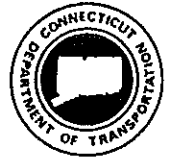




# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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### **Public Hearing – March 3, 2010 Transportation Committee**

### **Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation**

### **S.B. 343 – An Act Concerning the Improvement of Pedestrian Safety at Crosswalks Designated by Traffic Authorities.**

The Department of Transportation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 343, AAC the Improvement of Pedestrian Safety at Crosswalks Designated by Traffic Authorities.

In regards to Section 1 of the bill, at present Connecticut Traffic Authorities already have the ability to designate crosswalks, require particular crosswalks to have distinctive markings and signage, and to require pedestrian crosswalks to be signalized when deemed necessary by the traffic authority. Below is an excerpt from CGS 14-298:

“The traffic authority of any city, town or borough may place and maintain traffic control signals, signs, markings and other safety devices upon the highways under its jurisdiction, and all such signals, devices, signs and markings shall conform to the regulations established by said commission in accordance with this chapter, and such traffic authority shall, with respect to traffic control signals, conform to the provisions of section 14-299.”

CGS 14-299 requires that all traffic control signal be approved by the State Traffic Commission (STC). STC regulations 14-298-722 thru 726 reference pedestrian signals and accounts for the time necessary for a pedestrian to cross an intersection. In addition, STC regulations 14-298-508 address specific colors for pedestrian signs which are distinct from other signs.

Section 2 of the bill requires the STC to study the feasibility of adopting uniform safety standards applicable to all pedestrian crosswalks and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Transportation Committee. The STC already has established regulations which require uniform safety standards at all crosswalks as outlined below:

## STC Regulations:

### 14-298-508 (f) **Color of Signs.**

Fluorescent yellow-green may be used instead of yellow for pedestrian warning, bicycle warning, school bus and school warning signs.

### 14-298-554 (13) **Design of Warning Signs.**

Pedestrian warning, bicycle warning, playground warning and school bus and school warning signs may have black legend and border on a yellow or fluorescent yellow-green background.

### 14-298-722 thru 726 **Pedestrian Signal Design**

The Department would like to note that the Federal Highway Administration recently released a new edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control and Devices (MUTCD) and the Department will be proposing new regulations to match the new federal requirements contained in the MUTCD later this year.

Among the mandatory changes are several related to pedestrian signals and design and include:

- mandatory countdown pedestrian heads;
- additional clearance time of All Red at the end of all pedestrian phases; and
- mandatory fluorescent "yellow-green" color for school signage.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at 860-594-3013.